

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/708,663 Confirmation No. 2662
Applicant : Masuhiro Natsuhara, et al.
Filed : March 18, 2004
T.C./A.U. : 3742
Examiner : Sang Yeop Paik
Docket No. : 39.035
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This constitutes an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The attached documents listed on the accompanying "IDS List of References" (a substitute for Form PTO/SB/08) are hereby brought to the Examiner's attention in the patent application identified above.

REMARKS

All of the presently submitted documents, i.e., Cite Nos. F1 through F8 as listed on the IDS List of References, are not in English. These references were cited in a communication from the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart Japanese application.

Concise Explanation of Relevance/Copy of Translation **Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)**

As a concise explanation of the relevance of these Japanese-language references, an English translation of the pertinent portion of the Japanese Patent Office communication is submitted herewith. The JPO communication was in Japanese Pat. App. No. 2003-086734, the foreign patent application on the basis of which priority is claimed in the present application. (A copy of the Japanese Patent Office communication in its entirety follows the English translation.)

Furthermore, English abstracts of Cite Nos. F1 through F8 are available on the Japanese Patent Office website through Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ), and a copy of the corresponding abstract is attached to the back of each reference.

STATEMENT AS STIPULATED IN 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement.

FEE AS STIPULATED IN 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)

A final rejection was issued in the present application on July 19, 2006. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), in addition to the § 1.97(e) statement above, the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) is being submitted in an authorization, accompanying the EFS Web submission of this paper, to charge to a credit card the \$180 fee.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these references, and to indicate so on the accompanying IDS List of References and make the document of record in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

December 20, 2006

/James Judge/

James W. Judge
Registration No. 42,701

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